the country's import bill which grew by 11.9 per cent in 1992-93 over 1991-92 ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India's share in world exports was *0.6% during 1970. The share in 1990 is estimated at 0.5%*. As regards imports, the annual average increase during the period from 1980-81 to 1992-93 works out at 3.2%.

*Source ; Economic Survey 1993-94.

(c) The information called for is voluminous. The date can be accessed in the latest issue of Foreign Trade Statistics of India (November 1993) brought out by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta. The publication is available in the Lok Sabha Library.

(d) In order to increase exports, Government have taken major steps for liberalisation of trade which include promotion of export linked imports, reduction of import-licensing, strengthening of export incentives removal of procedural irritants through simplification of policy and procedures and pruning of negative list of exports. In the Budget for 1994-95 these measures have been further re-inforced by introduction of convertibility of rupee on the current account, reduction in customs and excise duties and rationalisation of their structure. Also exporters have been allowed to retain a higher percentage (from 15% to 20%) of their foreign exchange earnings to enable them to avoid conversion cost for making payments for imports. In the case of 100% export oriented units and units in Export Processing Zones, Electronic Hardware Technology Parks and Software Technology Parks, the limit of retention of foreign exchange earnings has been enhanced to 50%.

Difficulties faced by Indian Businessmen in Moscow

1893. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) wheher it is a fact that Indlan businessmen in Moscow are facing tremendous difficulties due to lack of shipping and banking facilities, fluctuation in the value of rouble and the high interest rate ; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what is the present position of trade between India and Russia ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Difficulties due to inadequate shipping and banking facilities, fluctuation in the value of the Rouble, and high interest rates in Russia do constitute factors impeding the growth of trade and economic cooperation between India and Russia.

(b) The aforementioned factors are attributable to the far-reaching developments in recent years in the former USSR/ Russia. Efforts are afoot to contain the situation. India-Russia trade is already showing clear signs of revival. The latest available present position of India's trade with Russia is as below :—

(Value in Rs. crores)

	Exports	Imports	Total
1993-94 (Apr.—Nov.)	1113.26	481.59	1594.85

(*Source* : DGCI&S

Export of Poultry Products

1894. SHRI S.K.T. RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be plessed to state :

(a) the constraints in the export of poultry products ;

(b) the steps being taken by Government to remove these constraints ;

(c) the incentives proposed by Government to enable the country to compete with other countries in the export of poultry products ; and

(d) the export of poultry products in the years 1992-93 and 1993-94, upto 31st December, 1993, or upto the date for which tne figure is available ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (c) There are no restriction on the export of poultry products. However, to boost the export of poultry products thrust is being made on ;

(i) infrastructural development

(ii) packaging development

(iii) training and information dissemination

(iv) promotion and publicity

(v) formulation of quality stantards

(d) export of poultry products during 1992-93 and 1993-94 (Apr.—Nov. 93) is given below :

Value : US $

1992-93	1993-94 (Apr.—Nov.)(P)
5934285	2668416

Source : DGCI&S, P : Provisional

Exchange Rate 1992-93 : 1 US$ Rs. 28,963

1993-94 1 US$ Rs. 31.362

Set back, in Exports of Gold Jwellery from NEPZ

1895. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that exports of gold jewellery from Noida Export Processing Zone (NEPZ) have suffered a set back ;

(b) if so, the details of the volume of export and reasons for the set back ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some units in the zone have virtually closed their operations ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) No, Sir. Exports of gem and jewellery from Noida Export Processing Zone during April 1993 to January, 1994 have registered an increase of about 20% as compared to the exports during the corresponding period of previous year.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Only one gem & jewellery unit has been debonded since April, 1993 owing to internal difficulties.

Export of Skimmed Milk Powder

1896. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is exploring the prospects for the export of skimmed milk powder (SMP) to neighbouring countries ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the country has already obtained some export orders ; and

(d) if so, the names of the countries and volume of orders ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) With effect from 29-9-93 Government has decanalised the export of powder milk (skimmed and full cream), and whole or infant milk food. A quantitative ceiling of 25,000 Mt. has been released for powder milk and infant milk food to the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) which will be allocating quotas and monitoring exports.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

ICC Urging for Comprehensive Policy Package

1897. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the International Chamber of Commerce has urged for a comprehensive